

In response to the USPTO Official Action mailed May 6, 1999, please amend the above-identified patent application as indicated below.

In the Claims

Kindly amend claims 1, 9, 10, 12, and 14-16 as set forth below.

1. (Amended) A high stability, low emission, invert fuel emulsion composition for ~~[an internal combustion]~~ a ~~reciprocating~~ engine comprising purified water; hydrocarbon petroleum distillate fuel as the continuous phase of the emulsion; and a surfactant package comprising primary surfactant, block copolymer, and polymeric dispersant, said emulsion being made by a continuous flow process comprising the steps of:

A1 a) blending a flow of additives comprising said surfactant package and a flow of said hydrocarbon petroleum distillate fuel in a first in-line blending station;

b) blending a flow from the in-line blending station of step a) with a flow of said purified water in a second in-line blending station;

c) aging the composition from the second in-line blending station of step b) in a reservoir;

d) passing the aged composition from step c) through a shear pump to a storage tank.

A2 9. (Amended) The invert fuel emulsion composition of claim 8 wherein said block copolymer is selected from the group consisting of ~~EO/PO block copolymers having approximately between 10 and 40 weight percent ethylene oxide (EO) and an approximate molecular weight of the propylene oxide (PO) block between about 900 and 2500 [PLURONIC 17R2, PLURONIC 17R4, PLURONIC 25R2, PLURONIC L43, PLURONIC L31, AND PLURONIC L61].~~

A3
cont
10. (Amended) The ~~invert~~ fuel emulsion composition of claim 9 wherein ~~said block copolymer is an EO/PO block copolymer having approximately between 20 weight percent ethylene oxide (EO) and an approximate molecular weight of the propylene oxide (PO) block of about 1700 [octylphenoxypolyethoxyethanol (PLURONIC 17R2)]~~.

A3
12. (Amended) The ~~invert~~ fuel emulsion composition of claim 11 wherein ~~said polymeric dispersant is a non-ionic polymeric dispersant [ICI HYPERMER E 464]~~.

A4
14. (Amended) The ~~invert~~ fuel emulsion composition of claim 13 wherein ~~said amide primary surfactant is a diethanolamide of oleic acid [Schereomid 80 A (Scher Chemical)]~~.

A4
15. (Amended) The ~~invert~~ fuel emulsion composition of claim 13 wherein ~~said block copolymer is an EO/PO block copolymer having approximately between 20 weight percent ethylene oxide (EO) and an approximate molecular weight of the propylene oxide (PO) block of about 1700 [Pluronic 17R2 (BASF)]~~.

A4
16. (Amended) The ~~invert~~ fuel emulsion composition of claim 13 wherein ~~said polymeric dispersant is a non-ionic polymeric dispersant [Hypermer E 464 (ICI)]~~.

Remarks

In the Office Action mailed May 6, 1999, the Examiner rejected claims 1-22. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and request reconsideration of all claims now pending in the application in light of the amendments and arguments set forth herein.

In the aforementioned Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.